

Ever wonder how ACHENA operates in such a tight-knit community?



Self-regulatory oversight is the norm for virtually all professional education in the US, including homeopathy education, and this necessarily involves an inherent Conflict of Interest (COI) for school administrators and faculty who serve on accrediting agencies like ACHENA. This being the case, ACHENA, like all accrediting agencies, has strong COI policies in place that are strictly implemented and measured against best practices articulated by the Association of Specialized and Professional Accreditors (ASPA) and the US Department of Education. The ACHENA Board has always been comprised of homeopathy school leaders and educators along with students, practitioners, and public members.

The world of homeopathy is full of hard-working, dedicated people who are often involved in multiple projects, organizations, coalitions, and businesses, in an effort to protect and support homeopathy. ACHENA Commissioners and Volunteers are no different. We often receive questions about how we protect delicate information when reviewing school accreditation documents and how we handle Conflicts of Interest. We would like to take this opportunity to clarify the ACHENA policies around these issues.

ACHENA general processes regarding Conflict of Interest:

- All Commissioners, Peers Reviewers, Volunteers and staff must sign a formal COI statement that is updated every year
- All Commissioners, Peers Reviewers, Volunteers and staff must sign an acknowledgement of ACHENA's Whistleblower Policy and Procedure which is submitted with the renewal of the COI statement every year
- All Commissioners are regularly informed and updated of their fellow members' conflicts of interest providing for self and peer accountability of COI disclosure
- Every Executive Committee and full Board meeting begins with a request to those participating in the meeting to declare if they have any COI in relation to any matter appearing on the agenda; if yes, they must remove themselves from the meeting while that agenda item is discussed
- All Commissioners and staff who have a COI with a specific school do not participate in discussions or voting during ACHENA meetings on any issues related to that school
- All Commissioners, Volunteers or Staff who have a COI with a specific school do not participate in the assessment or review process of any accreditation-related matter related to that school
- During any assessment and review process for a specific school, all working documents are stored in a separate location that is accessible only to those directly involved with that review (who do not have COI with that school)
- During any assessment and review process for a specific school, communication between ACHENA and that school is channeled through Commissioners, Volunteers or Staff who do not have a COI with that school
- During the assessment and review process for a specific school, discussions are held only among those directly involved with that review (who do not have COI with that school), only after which the reviewers' recommendations are discussed with the Executive Committee and the Board

For more information about ACHENA, our scope, our policies, or how you can get involved in homeopathy education accreditation, don't hesitate to reach out!